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# U. S. CIVILIAN ADMITS HE IS SPY, SAY REDS

## Charge He Sought to Rescue Agent

HONG KONG, Jan. 2 [Reuters] — Communist China announced today that John T. Downey, one of 13 Americans jailed as spies in China, has confessed details of an alleged plot to fly into the country in 1952 to pick up an American secret agent.

Downey is one of two civilians sentenced with 11 American airmen two months ago by communist China. The New China News agency broadcast his alleged confession only two days before United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld was due to arrive in Peiping to try to persuade Premier Chou En-lai to free the 11 airmen.

### Plane Shot Down

Downey, who has been sentenced to life imprisonment, admitted in a written deposition that his plane was shot down in northeast China while trying to pick up with a rope and winch an agent dropped there a month earlier, the agency said. He said his C-47 plane carried no markings to prevent tracing its origin, it added.

In the alleged confession, Downey said he worked for the United States Central Intelligence agency in Japan and was in charge of training a group of spies who later were parachuted into China.

China sentenced Downey in November, when it also sentenced Richard G. Fecteau, 27, to a 20 year term, as well as the 11 American airmen, whose plane was shot down near the Korean-Manchurian border. Downey was then called the key man in the American "plot."

### Cleared by U. S.

Downey's confession said he and Fecteau flew from Seoul, Korea, across the Chinese border on a route "cleared with the far east air force in Tokyo and the [U. S.] air force in Korea."

After they took off they saw flashes of artillery from Korea. When they reached the "pick-up area" just after midnight, "the plane was shot down and belly-landed."

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